



**County of San Diego**  
**Department of the Alternate Public Defender**  
**110 West "C" Street, Suite 1100**  
**San Diego, CA 92101**



**Volunteer position description:**  
**Family Advocate**

To assist parents who are involved in the Juvenile Dependency Court System to develop skills, which will lead to becoming responsible parents so that they may reunify with their children.

Family Advocates work with the Volunteer Coordinator at the direction of the Alternate Public Defender attorney representing the parent.

Family Advocates should have personal attributes such as maturity, stability, sensitivity, patience and friendliness. Family Advocates should have a wide variety of successful life experiences to bring to the volunteer - parent relationship. Family Advocates should provide a non-judgmental supportive friendship and be a role model for the parent. The ability to maintain client confidentiality is mandatory

Typical activities of a Family Advocate:

1. Assist the parent in understanding the requirements set forth by the Dependency Court in the Family Reunification Plan.
2. Assist the parent in contacting the service referrals listed in the reunification plan and aid the parent in following through with those services.
3. Provide the attorney with regular updates regarding the parent's progress.
4. Report any problem areas or concerns to Volunteer Coordinator.
5. Provide limited transportation to parents (at the discretion of the Family Advocate) for visitation, therapy appointments, court appearances, etc.
6. Provide a personal contact and outlet for the parent to discuss fears, concerns and frustrations.

Training: Advocates will receive 16 hours of initial training and ongoing monthly meetings/training's on child abuse and related issues.

Commitment: Family Advocates are expected to make a commitment of approximately 20 hours per month for at least one year.